

Sustainability Literacy Assessment

Survey administered to students as a Google Form: <https://forms.gle/m4aakthjVhvnRnVT7>

The following sustainability literacy assessment was borrowed with permission from The Ohio State University Environmental and Social Sustainability Lab. More information about OSU's Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge (ASK) Scale can be found at the following link: <https://ess.osu.edu/campus-sustainability-survey>.

ENVIRONMENT

1. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers? **(OSU1)**
 - a. Dumping of garbage by cities
 - b. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields**
 - c. Litter near streams and rivers
 - d. Waste dumped by factories
 - e. Don't know

2. Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth's upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from? **(OSU2)**
 - a. Acid rain
 - b. Climate change
 - c. Sudden changes in temperature
 - d. Harmful UV rays**
 - e. Don't know

3. Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management? **(OSU5)**
 - a. Setting aside forests to be off limits to the public
 - b. Never harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth**
 - c. Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing
 - d. Putting the local communities in charge of forest resources
 - e. Don't know

4. Of the following, which would be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way? **(UMD7)**
 - a. Recycling all recyclable packaging
 - b. Reducing consumption of all products**
 - c. Buying products labeled "eco" or "green"
 - d. Buying the newest products available
 - e. Don't know

SOCIAL

5. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development? **(OSU7)**

- a. Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health care, and social services
- b. Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
- c. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**
- d. Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse
- e. Don't know

6. Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans? **(OSU8)**

- a. The difference has increased**
- b. The difference has stayed about the same
- c. The difference has decreased
- d. Don't know

ECONOMIC

7. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because... **(OSU14)**

- a. They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity**
- b. Too many suppliers go out of business
- c. Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area
- d. Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy
- e. Don't know

8. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of economic sustainability? **(OSU15)**

- a. Maximizing the share price of a company's stock
- b. Long term profitability**
- c. When costs equal revenue
- d. Continually expanding market share
- e. Don't know

ECON/ENV

9. Which of the following countries passed the U.S. to become the largest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide? **(OSU12)**

- a. China**
- b. Sweden
- c. Brazil
- d. Japan

e. Don't know

10. Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean? **(OSU16)**

- a. **Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch**
- b. Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
- c. Ocean pollution
- d. Global climate change
- e. Don't know

SOC/ECON

11. Which of the following is the best example of environmental justice? **(UMD6)**

- a. Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities
- b. The government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydro-power for large cities
- c. **All stakeholders from an indigenous community are involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood they can take from a protected forest next to their village**
- d. Multi-national corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict.
- e. Don't know

ENV/SOC

12. Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact: **(UMD13)**

- A. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
 - B. Producing one McDonald's quarter-pound hamburger
 - C. Producing one McDonald's chicken sandwich
 - D. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China
- a. A, C, B, D
 - b. D, A, B, C
 - c. D, C, B, A
 - d. **D, B, C, A**
 - e. Don't know